

HOUSE BILL NO. 419

INTRODUCED BY J. SHOCKLEY

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING IN THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL A PROGRAM FOR THE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF VIOLATIONS OF ~~AGRICULTURE~~ FISH, WILDLIFE, AND ~~NATURAL RESOURCES~~ PARKS LAWS."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. ~~Natural resources~~ FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS enforcement program.

There is a ~~natural resources~~ FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS enforcement program in the department of justice, which must be administered by the entity in the department that assists county attorneys with prosecutions. The program staff ~~shall~~ MAY investigate and may prosecute CRIMINAL cases concerning the violation of the laws administered by the ~~departments of agriculture, environmental quality, fish, wildlife, and parks, livestock, and natural resources and conservation~~ DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS. The program is under the supervision and control of the attorney general and consists of:

~~—— (1) one or more investigators qualified by education, training, experience, and professional competence in investigative procedures who shall investigate violations of the agriculture, wildlife, and natural resources laws; and~~

~~—— (2) one or more attorneys~~ A HALF-TIME ATTORNEY licensed to practice law in Montana who may prosecute, or assist county attorneys and the ~~departments~~ DEPARTMENT in the prosecution of, CRIMINAL violations of ~~agriculture, wildlife, and natural resources laws~~ TITLE 87.

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